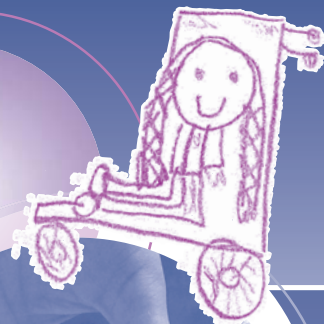


# WEST SUSSEX PARENTS FORUM...



## INSIDE

- **New Year - New Look**
- **Meet the Team**  
your chance to put a face to a name
- **Aiming High for Disabled Children**  
an explanation about what Aiming High is all about
- **Transport & Transition Updates**  
all the latest on these important issues

**ISSUE 3**  
**January 2010**

# Who we are...

West Sussex Parents Forum was originally formed by a group of hard working parents/ carers who volunteered their time to help the County Council in planning services for disabled children and young people aged 0-25 living in West Sussex.

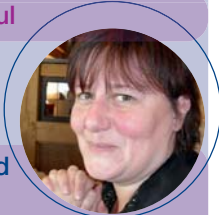
We started out, 3 years ago with 40 parents on our database. Since then we have evolved rapidly, and although we still call ourselves West Sussex Parents Forum, we are actually a campaigning organisation that is totally independent of West Sussex County Council. We aim to represent the views of all parents with disabled children and young people in West Sussex.

## Meet the Team...

It's always good to be able to put a face to a name, so we thought that you might like the chance to meet the West Sussex Parents Forum team...



Kim Paul



Kelly Willard



Lindsey Butterfield



Lyn Aaron-Ferrigno



Ranti Fallowfield



Rod Brown

Jo Fisher

## Message from Kelly...

Hi I am Kelly, the current Chair of West Sussex Parents Forum.

We are really excited to welcome in this New Year. 2010 heralds the start of your new look newsletter and please remember that, this is YOUR newsletter, so please tell us about your thoughts and views regarding our new look as well as any other things you would like to see in future issues.

This year is going to be a big year for the Forum. We have lots of changes planned to ensure that we continue to represent parents in West Sussex, so please watch this space over the coming months. Please also show this to any of your friends who are not yet members and get them joined up straight away!

May 2010 be a great year for you and your family.

Love Kelly



# Updates



## A Transport Improvement Project

Back in October 2008, we held a consultation where we asked parents and carers about how transport could be improved. The results were published in a report which was presented to West Sussex County Council.

Transport is still a big issue and whilst the progress is slow, we are working with the transport department. We thank you for sending back your updated questionnaires,

which were sent out recently, this gave us a real insight into the issues that families are still experiencing.

We are currently working closely with West Sussex County Council on a **charter for transport** which we will send out to parents/carers in January. We really would like your views on this as soon as possible. We will keep you updated with this – watch this space!

## Transition

Transition is something that causes parents/carers a great deal of anxiety. As a Forum we want to ensure that all children and young people know about all the opportunities that are available to them so that they can achieve their own unique potential. We also want to ensure that parents and carers have all the information that they need to help them make decisions with their children about their futures.

Members from West Sussex Parents Forum attended a meeting held at Brinsbury College on 17th November to discuss the information that Mike Smith had received from two previous workshops that were held around county. We were very impressed that Mike and his team seemed to acknowledge our views regarding how parents would like the content to be.

Jill Lovejoy Strategic Manager for Transition was also at the event and she spoke about how the information that

parents and carers would receive about information would be web-based information. This caused us concern and continues to, as those that we had spoken to, had said that they wanted to receive information in an A5 folder as opposed to web-based.

We are left wondering whether we are really being listened to. **Please let us have your views on this, maybe you were at the event, are you happy with the outcomes?**

# Disability Living Allowance Test Paper Event

**We would like to thank all the parents that took part in this evening. It was a great success, with over 25 parents coming along to give their comments on the New Test Paper.** For those parents who could not actually join us but expressed an interest in receiving the new Disability Living Allowance test paper you should have received this by now, if you haven't and would like to receive one, please contact us, as we have a few copies left.

It was really interesting listening to Maria Mason (Senior Manager of Department for Work and Pensions) and her team as they talked about what's involved in the whole

process of DLA. From parents completing a form to those actually having to make the decisions from what they actually read on the form.

One of the fantastic results of the evening is that Maria and her team have agreed to hold some events in West Sussex, where people will actually help parents and carers fill in the forms. We are planning to hold these events in the coming months in a couple of venues around the county. Can you let us know if you are interested in this, if you think there is the demand and when and where you would like us to arrange these?

## Information for Parents

From time to time we are asked to send out information to parents from other parents or organisations. As a management committee we feel it is your right to see this information and your choice as to whether it is relevant to you. **We do not intend to offend anybody or take any responsibility for any offence caused. If you do not wish to receive this information please contact us.**

## Parents Expenses

West Sussex Parents Forum reimburses any travel or childcare expenses that parents may incur when attending any meeting as a Forum representative.



# Your Opinion...

Part of our 'new look' newsletter is that we want to hear from you! Each edition we will be asking for your views. This month we have a number of things that we want feedback on, please complete the following form and send it to us, or email us at: [parents@westsussexparentsforum.org.uk](mailto:parents@westsussexparentsforum.org.uk)

What do you think of our new look? Is there anything else you would like to see in our newsletter?

---

---

---

---

---

If West Sussex Parents Forum could change one service in West Sussex what would it be?

---

---

---

---

---

Why would you like to change this service?

---

---

---

---

---

In terms of information around 'transition', how would you most like this information given to you?

---

---

---

---

---

Please complete these questions and return to the following contact details:

**West Sussex Parents Forum**

Freepost RRZJ-ZHLX-CLSH, PO Box 3328, Littlehampton, BN16 9EX  
Tel: 07528 418149 • Email: [parents@westsussexparentsforum.co.uk](mailto:parents@westsussexparentsforum.co.uk)  
[www.westsussexparentsforum.co.uk](http://www.westsussexparentsforum.co.uk)

# West Sussex Parents Forum Membership Form

**Your Name and Details:** \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Tel No: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## Details of your Child or Young Person

Name of your child/young person: \_\_\_\_\_ Their Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child/young person Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of your child/young person: \_\_\_\_\_ Their Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child/young person Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of your child/young person: \_\_\_\_\_ Their Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child/young person Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Name of your child/young person: \_\_\_\_\_ Their Age: \_\_\_\_\_

Your child/young person Disability Diagnosed/Non Diagnosed: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

## Questions about you

The running of West Sussex Parents Forum is under taken by a very few passionate parents who think that if you all have the same VOICE we can make a difference to Change things for our children and young people for the FUTURE. I know there are many of you who can help us by bringing your skills and expertise to the Forum to make it the type of organisation other organisations will seek and value as a VOICE of parents in West Sussex.

Expertise/Skill you can bring to the Forum: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Would you be willing to attend meetings as a representative of West Sussex Parents Forum?

Yes  No

Would you be willing for West Sussex Parents Forum to pass your details on to other organisations?

Yes  No

If you do not wish to be contacted to attend meetings, would you be willing to help West Sussex Parents Forum in other ways.

Yes  No

If yes how much time (this can be as little as an hour per Month): \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for taking the time to fill this form in

# Calling all Parents...

Hello, my name is Daniel Cheesman and I am the Parent Participation Worker for West Sussex as part of the Aiming High for Disabled Children project.

My role is to ensure that parents and carers in West Sussex are not only asked about what they think about services for disabled children and young people, but are involved in making decisions about future services, how money is spent and tell those who make decisions about what the real issues for families are.

I am currently working with the West Sussex Parents Forum and other organisations that support families, children and young people in

West Sussex. Together we are trying to build up a number of parents who want to get more involved with Aiming High and have a say in the future of the programme.

If you would like to chat with me about your ideas, or if you want to find out about how you get more involved, then please call me on **07595 070833** or email me on **Daniel.cheesman@wscvys.org.uk**

Aiming High for  
Disabled Children



## ‘A once in a life-time opportunity’

**Aiming High for Disabled Children is being called, ‘a once in a life-time opportunity’ as the government has committed a large amount of money for new services for disabled children and young people. The programme aims to transform society so that all disabled children and young people fulfil their potential and live as ordinary life as possible.**

In West Sussex, one of the main focuses of Aiming High has been to offer more short breaks (respite as this is sometimes known) for children, young people and their families. There are a number of new short break services available around West Sussex and we will be telling you more about these services in our special ‘Aiming High’

newsletter that is due out soon. For more information about Aiming High for Disabled Children, please contact Judy Crocombe (Aiming High Development Officer, West Sussex) at **judy.crocombe@westsussex.gov.uk**



# Future Dates for the Diary



Here are a few dates of meeting that may be of – interest to you:

## **Early Support Implementation Group (Early Years) - 7th January 2010**

We are looking for a couple of representatives, who are interested in services for 0-5's who might want to attend this meeting on behalf of the Parents Forum.

## **Continuing Health Care Budget's 12th January 2010**

We are looking for up to 20 parents and carers who have an interest in Continuing Health Care Budgets to take part in this meeting.

## **Parents for Autism Monday 18th January 2010 & Monday 8th March 2010 (7:30-9:15pm)**

Is a parents group who meet bi monthly about any issues they have regarding Autism and their children/ young person.

We meet at The Maybridge Family Centre, The Strand, Worthing, BN12 6DI. For further information please contact Lindsey at [parentsupport@sussexautisticsociety.org](mailto:parentsupport@sussexautisticsociety.org)

There is also a parents group in Crawley that runs alternate months to the Worthing meeting if you would like more information on this please get in touch with The Sussex Autistic Society.

**If you are interested in attending any of the above meetings please contact Kelly or Lindsey on 07528418149**

Do you have an event that you want to advertise in the Newsletter? If you do then please contact us, to see if we are able promote it for you.

## **West Sussex Parents Forum**

Freeport RRZJ-ZHLX-CLSH, PO Box 3328, Littlehampton, BN16 9EX  
Tel: 07528 418149 • Email: [parents@westsussexparentsforum.co.uk](mailto:parents@westsussexparentsforum.co.uk)  
[www.westsussexparentsforum.co.uk](http://www.westsussexparentsforum.co.uk)